

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 02356 041932 Z

43

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NEA-10 SY-10 RSR-01 AID-20 /125 W  
----- 109392

R 041653 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7344

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2356

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EC

SUBJECT: MORE ON THE BOMBING OF JULIO PRADO' S HOME

REF: QUITO 2341

1. SUMMARY: MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT HAS STATED IN THE PRESS THAT PRADO WILL HAVE TO PROVE HIS CHARGES OF OFFICIAL COMPLICITY IN THE BOMBING OF HIS HOUSE OR FACE PROSECUTION. PRADO HAS RETURNED TO THE ATTACK IN AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT. THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH A DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN DECIDING HOW TO HANDLE THIS MATTER. END SUMMARY

2. TWO NEW AND INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS HAVE OCCURRED ABOUT THE BOMBING OF THE HOUSE OF COLUMNIST JULIO PROADO ( REPORTED IN REFTEL) FIRST, THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT GENERAL LATORRE ANNOUNCED THAT PRADO WOULD HAVE TO PROVE HIS ALLEGATIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS INVOLVED IN THE BOMBING OR FACE PROSECUTION FOR LIBEL. LATORRE SAID THAT THE REPUTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS OFFICIALS COULD NO LONGER BE AT THE MERCY OF THE " CAPRICIOUS IMAGININGS" OF PRADO AND ADDED THAT IN HIS OPINION PRADO WAS TRYING TO APPEAR AS A VICTIM OF THE GOVERNMENT.  
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PAGE 02 QUITO 02356 041932 Z

3. NOT TO BE OUTDONE, PRADO PUBLISHED AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ IN HIS EL TIEMPO COLUMN OF MAY 4. THIS LETTER REIMPLIES OFFICIAL COMPLICITY IN THE BOMBING OF HIS HOME BY ASSERTING THAT IT WAS PROBABLY PERPETRATED BY SOMEONE OFFENDED BY HIS COLUMN WHICH HE POINTED OUT IS OFTEN CRITICAL OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. PRADO GOES ON TO SAY THAT THIS BOMBING ILLUSTRATES THE GROWING ATMOSPHERE OF VIOLENCE AND OFFICIAL ABUSE OF POWER, THAT THE CITIZENRY ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY ANXIOUS BECAUSE OF THIS, AND FINALLY THAT A CLIMATE SIMILAR TO THAT EXISTING IN BRAZIL IS DEVELOPING IN ECUADOR.

4. COMMENT: WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT PRADO IS EXAGGERATING IN HIS ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION IN ECUADOR, WE DO NOT DOUBT THAT HE WILL BE MORE THAN A MATCH FOR LATORRE IF MATTERS REALLY GO TO A LIBEL CASE. THE GOE WILL PROBABLY REALIZE THIS ALSO AND WILL, THEREFORE, BE FACED WITH A DIFFICULT DECISION: TO LEAVE PRADO ALONE DESPITE LATORRE'S THREAT, OR TRY HIM IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PREVENT HIM FROM DEFENDING HIMSELF ADEQUATELY. THE LATTER SOLUTION COULD PROVOKE AN INCREASINGLY SEVERE PROBLEM WITH THE PRESS.

BURNS

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 04 MAY 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
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**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971204  
**Subject:** MORE ON THE BOMBING OF JULIO PRADO' S HOME  
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SECSTATE WASHDC  
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**Type:** TE  
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